

Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-15, and 17 are pending in the application.

The Office action indicates that claims 1-2, 4-13, and 17 are allowable. In order to further this application to allowance, applicants have cancelled claims 14-15. However, Applicants disagree that these claims are not allowable as alleged in the Office action and reserve the right to prosecute these claims in continuing applications.

In view of the foregoing, all of the remaining claims in this application are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that they have not received confirmation that the Office has considered the references in their Information Disclosure Statement of August 20, 2009. Applicants would appreciate receiving such confirmation.

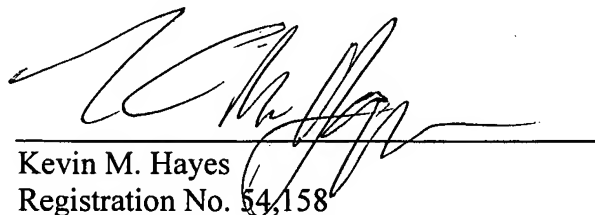
If the Examiner believes that any further action would place this application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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